

## Message Text

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ACTION SS-25

INFO OCT-01 ISO-00 SSO-00 /026 W  
-----201544Z 026651 /41

R 201357Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2836  
INFO AMCONSUL HONG KONG  
AMEMBASSY MOSCOW  
USLO PEKING  
AMEMBASSY TOKYO  
USMISSION USUN NEW YORK

C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 01 OF 02 LONDON 06382

EXDIS

E.O. 11652: XGDS-1  
TAGS: PFOR, PDIP, MG, US, UK  
SUBJECT: AMBASSADOR PONSONBY ON US-MONGOLIAN RELATIONS

REF: STATE 87204

1. SUMMARY. AMBASSADOR PONSONBY CONTINUES TO BELIEVE THAT MONGOLIAN RELUCTANCE TO MOVE FORWARD ON THE ESTABLISHMENT OF US-MPR DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IS BASED ON FEARS OF A LARGE (BY ULAANBAATAR STANDARDS) US PRESENCE IN MONGOLIA, BUT THE AMBASSADOR FEELS HE COULD COMMENT MORE MEANINGFULLY ON THE SUBJECT WERE HE FAMILIAR WITH THE US "PACKAGE" NOW BEFORE THE MONGOLIANS. HMG HAS NO PLANS TO CLOSE ITS MISSION IN ULAANBAATAR, AND PONSONBY'S SUCCESSOR PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON MARCH 21. USSR-MPR STATE AND OARTY RELATIONS REMAIN VERY CLOSE DESPITE A STRONG ANTI-SOVIET SENTIMENT AMONG THE MONGOLIAN PEOPLE. END SUMMARY.

2. IN AN EXTENDED, INFORMAL CONVERSATION WITH EMBOFF ON  
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APRIL 19, FORMER BRITISH AMBASSADOR TO MONGOLIA MYLES PONSONBY SAID THAT HE STILL BELIEVES MONGOLIAN RELUCTANCE TO MOVE FORWARD ON ESTABLISHING DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS WITH THE UNITED STATES IS BASED ON MONGOLIAN FEARS AND UNCERTAINTIES REGARDING THE SIZE OF A FUTURE US MISSION IN UL-ANBAATAR. PONSONBY SAID THAT ON TWO OCCASIONS DURING THE PAST YEAR, HE HAD RECEIVED CLEAR SIGNALS TO THIS

EFFECT FROM SENIOR MONGOLIAN OFFICIALS. IN JULY 1976, PONSONBY ASKED A SENIOR PARTY OFFICIAL WHO HAD BEEN WAXING ELOQUENT ON MONGOLIAN DESIRES FOR GOOD RELATIONS "WITH ALL NATIONS" WHETHER THIS WISH APPLIED TO THE PROBLEM OF THEIR SECURITY GUARDS," PRESUMABLY A REFERENCE TO A US PROPOSAL FOR AN MSG DETACHMENT IN ULAANBAATAR. AT A FAREWELL LUNCHEON GIVEN FOR THE PONSONBYS BY MPR FOREIGN MINISTER MANGALYN DUGERSUREN IN EARLY APRIL 1977, MRS. PONSONBY (WHO HAD BEEN COACHED BY HER HUSBAND) QUERIED DUGERSUREN ON THE PROSPECTS FOR US-MPR RELATIONS. DUGERSUREN REPLIED, "WE CANNOT FIND A BUILDING THAT MEETS THEIR REQUIREMENTS." WHEN PONSONBY BROKE IN TO SUGGEST SEVERAL BUILDINGS WHICH MIGHT BE SUITABLE, DUGERSUREN SAID, "BUT THERE WILL BE SO MANY OF THEM (I.E., AMERICANS)."

3. PONSONBY SERIOUSLY DOUBTS THAT THE SOVIETS HAVE INSTRUCTED THE MONGOLIANS TO STAND DOWN ON ESTABLISHING RELATIONS WITH THE USG, BUT HE ADMITS THAT MOSCOW MAY HAVE CAUTIONED THE MONGOLIANS TO BE WARY OF ALLOWING A MAJOR US PRESENCE. POLITICALLY, PONSONBY BELIEVES THAT THE USSR WOULD PROBABLY FIND IT EASY TO RATIONALIZE A SMALL US MISSION, AS US RECOGNITION OF THE MPR COULD BE INTERPRETED AS A FINGER IN THE EYE OF THE CHINESE. EMPHASIZING THAT HE DID NOT WISH TO INTERFERE, PONSONBY

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R 201357Z APR 77  
FM AMEMBASSY LONDON  
TO SECSTATE WASHDC 2837  
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C O N F I D E N T I A L SECTION 02 OF 02 LONDON 06382

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SAID HE FELT HE COULD COMMENT MORE MEANINGFULLY ON MONGOLIAN ATTITUDES TO THE QUESTION OF DIPLOMATIC RELATIONS IF HE WERE ABLE TO SEE EITHER THE USG "PACKAGE" PRESENTED TO THE MONGOLIANS OR A PRECIS OF THE ELEMENTS OF THIS "PACKAGE." (COMMENT: GIVEN PONSONBY'S KNOWLEDGEABILITY, DISCRETION, AND SINCERE DESIRE TO BE HELPFUL, WE STRONGLY ENDORSE THIS SUGGESTION AND WOULD BE PLEASED TO SEEK HIS POINT-BY-POINT COMMENTARY ON THE "PACKAGE.")

4. PONSONBY IS CERTAIN THAT HMG IS NOT CONSIDERING CLOSING ITS MISSION IN ULAANBAATAR. PONSONBY DEPARTED HIS POST ON MARCH 6; HIS REPLACEMENT, JULIAN HARTLANDSWAN (BIO FOLLOWS SEPTTEL), ARRIVED IN ULAANBAATAR ON MARCH 17 AND PRESENTED HIS CREDENTIALS ON MARCH 21. THERE IS, HOWEVER, A POSSIBILITY THAT THE FRENCH MAY DECIDE TO WRAP UP THEIR PART-TIME MISSION IN ULAANBAATAR, AS PONSONBY BELIEVES THE PRESENT FRENCH AMBASSADOR WILL MAKE A RECOMMENDATION TO THIS EFFECT AT THE TERMINATION OF HIS ASSIGNMENT.

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5. SOVIET-MONGOLIAN STATE AND PARTY RELATIONS REMAIN, ACCORDING TO PONSONBY, VERY CLOSE. THIS CLOSENESS IS NOT, HOWEVER, REFLECTED IN THE FEELINGS OF THE AVERAGE MAN IN THE YURT, AS THERE SEEMS TO BE A STRONG FEELING OF ANTIPATHY TOWARD THE SOVIETS AMONG THE COMMON PEOPLE, ALTHOUGH THERE IS NO "INTELLECTUAL DISSIDENCE" AS SUCH IN MONGOLIA. GIVING AN EXAMPLE OF ANTI-SOVIET ATTITUDES, PONSONBY SAID THAT HIS WIFE PROBABLY ENJOYS (IF ONE CAN USE THE WORD) THE DISTINCTION OF BEING THE ONLY WIFE OF A BRITISH AMBASSADOR ANYWHERE IN THE WORLD TO HAVE BEEN STONED WITH OAFIOUS ACCURACY BECAUSE HER YOUTHFUL ASSAILANT MISTOOK HER FOR A SOVIET CITIZEN.

6. AMBASSADOR PONSONBY HAS EXPRESSED HIS CONTINUED WILLINGNESS TO SHARE HIS VIEWS AND IMPRESSIONS WITH US, AND WE PLAN TO FOLLOW UP THIS MEETING WITH ANOTHER DEVOTED TO MONGOLIAN AFFAIRS. WE SHALL USE THE CURRENT CIRCUIT AS A POINT OF DEPARTURE BUT WOULD WELCOME ANY ADDITIONAL QUESTIONS THE DEPARTMENT MIGHT WISH RAISED.

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## Message Attributes

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